

## Arts in the Time of Covid-19

Issue 2

May 2020

Firstly thank you for all the positive feedback on the April edition of the newsletter.

In this edition there are lots more cultural things to explore and thanks to the BBC's Culture in Quarantine events I am pleased to list much more culture available to access by members not connected to the Internet.

Paula Dove

Newsletter editor and Groups Co-ordinator.

Introduction

### Recommendations from Eileen Bravey, Galleries and Museums Convenor

There continues to be huge amounts of Art to enjoy on-line – lots is posted in our Woodley U3A Culture for all Facebook group – far much more than can be squeezed in here.

One treat for those who didn't see this when it was streamed to local cinemas is the documentary "Painting the Modern Garden – Monet to Matisse". This features the Royal Academy exhibition of a couple of years ago. Click on the link to watch it.

<https://www.royalacademy.org.uk/article/exhibition-on-screen-documentary-painting-the-modern-garden-monet-matisse>

For the Frida Kahlo fans among you - here are two excellent links to explore – one for the museum in her home and the second a virtual exhibition of her artworks.

[https://www.recorridosvirtuales.com/frida\\_kahlo/museo\\_frida\\_kahlo.html](https://www.recorridosvirtuales.com/frida_kahlo/museo_frida_kahlo.html)

<https://www.timeout.com/news/see-more-than-800-frida-kahlo-artworks-in-this-epic-virtual-exhibition-032020>

Do not miss all of the wonderful BBC programmes on Art as part of the BBC Culture in Quarantine – some on TV, some on radio. If you missed when first screened catch up on BBC iPlayer and BBC Sounds.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/45gMYKsDtlRx1WdTCZh3q2b/culture-in-quarantine-tv-radio-and-digital-schedule>

Finally why not watch Greyson Perry's Art Club on Channel 4. Anthony Gormley was last's week guest artist.

Art Galleries and Museums

### Get Creative

Part of the BBC Culture in Quarantine series included an opportunity for you to take part in a life drawing class, Catch up on BBC iPlayer.

Or perhaps learn how to paint like Kandinsky

<https://www.tate.org.uk/art/artworks/kandinsky-cossacks-n04948/how-paint-kandinsky>

Remember there is still plenty of time to write and enter a poem for our first Woodley U3A poetry competition. Closing date is 16<sup>th</sup> June. Email or post entries to Paula.

Get Creative

Music

**Music recommendations from Paula.**

**Classical music** is well-represented on-line - <https://www.classicfm.com/music-news/live-streamed-classical-music-concerts-coronavirus/> - gives a comprehensive list which appears to be regularly updated.

For a wide range of concerts with very well-known musical performers look at Live Concerts at home from Albert Hall. Past ones are archived and can still be watched.

<https://www.royalalberthall.com/tickets/series/royal-albert-home/>

Kings Place kplayer website offers all genres of music from jazz to folk to classical. There are regular streaming of concerts for just one evening so keep an eye on what is coming up.

<https://www.kingsplace.co.uk/kplayer/>

For concerts where you can interact why not try the Oxford Folk Weekend ones – they have some great gigs coming up. The concerts use Zoom and the musicians can see and hear you – though they mute the audience while the musician is playing.

<https://folkweekendoxford.co.uk/what-s-on>

Theatre + Opera + Dance

**Recommendations from Paula, self-confessed theatre addict and Angela Berrisford.**

For a regularly updated list of theatre productions on line look at:

[https://www.whatsonstage.com/london-theatre/news/stage-shows-musicals-opera-free-stream-online\\_51198.html](https://www.whatsonstage.com/london-theatre/news/stage-shows-musicals-opera-free-stream-online_51198.html)

Hull Truck Company are currently streaming a performance of Jack Lear with Barry Rutter and music by Eliza Carthy.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l9w615qBT9g>

Watch some RSC productions on BBC iPlayer. Part of the BBC Culture in Quarantine series. (I would avoid the Macbeth production – it was not well received by the critics).

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/group/p08b0ct7>

Royal Opera House is offering a large number of performances to watch on-line – ballet and dance as well as opera.

<https://www.roh.org.uk/tickets-and-events/all?event-type=opera-and-music>

<https://www.roh.org.uk/tickets-and-events/all?event-type=ballet-and-dance>

For something a little different - Cirque du Soleil are streaming some of their performances on YouTube. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3zuBpFqxDCI>

Please do consider donating to the theatres if you watch and enjoy a performance.

On-line Hay Festival

**Hay Festival Goes Digital – 22<sup>nd</sup> May to 31<sup>st</sup> May. – recommended by Eileen.**

There are a huge number of on-line events scheduled. If like me you have never been to this major event now is the time to see if you would like to go when it returns, hopefully to normal, next year. Follow the link to see what is on offer -

<http://www.hayfestival.com/digital>

NOTE: You do need to registrar for each event you would like to attend.

## Recommendations from Jeff Green, Afternoon Film Group Convenor

### On BBC iPlayer

**“Educating Rita”** Director : Lewis Gilbert (1983)

Julie Walters & Michael Caine in the film of one of Willy Russell’s award winning plays (Shirley Valentine, Blood Brothers). Hairdresser (Walters) decides to better herself by studying for an Open University degree. She chooses drunken lecturer Frank Bryant (Caine) as her tutor.

[https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/educating\\_rita](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/educating_rita)

**“The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society”** Director : Mike Newell (2018)

In London, 1946, author Juliet Ashton's career has taken off, but she is not enjoying promoting her detective stories to eager audiences on a book tour. When she receives a letter from a Guernsey pig farmer inviting her to attend a meeting of his literary society, she eagerly accepts. What Juliet discovers about her new friends and their secrets leads to her staying on the island much longer than she planned.

[https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the\\_guernsey\\_literary\\_and\\_potato\\_peel\\_pie](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the_guernsey_literary_and_potato_peel_pie)

### On Netflix

**“The Rolling Thunder Review: A Bob Dylan Story by Martin Scorsese” (2019)**

Fascinating retrospective documentary about the 1975 road tour by Mr Zimmerman & friends. Featuring Bob Dylan, Joan Baez, Joni Mitchell, Roger McGuinn, Alan Ginsberg, Sam Shepard, the list goes on(!). Extensive behind the scenes film sequences, interviews from 1975 and contemporary interviews with Bob Dylan & Joan Baez.

[https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/rolling\\_thunder\\_revue\\_a\\_bob\\_dylan\\_story\\_by\\_martin\\_scorsese](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/rolling_thunder_revue_a_bob_dylan_story_by_martin_scorsese)

**“Roma”** Director: Alfonso Cuarón (2018)

Loosely based on the experiences of the director growing up in the 1970s in Mexico City. Political unrest, street demonstrations and nationalist thugs contrast with the domestic events of a middle class household in the Roma district. All seen through the perspective of a young female domestic servant. Shot using a loving black and white cinematography.

[https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/roma\\_2018](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/roma_2018)

### On DVD/Blu-Ray

**“The Sisters Brothers”** Director : Jacques Audiard (2018)

Two brothers are in the employ of a local criminal, the Commodore, are tasked with apprehending a fleeing chemist with a secret formula for finding gold. Long cinematic pursuit across Oregon into California to San Francisco and then to the gold rush area. Sisters brothers throw in with the chemist but the Commodore is not to be thwarted ...

Based on the dark humour Western novel by Patrick deWitt.

[https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the\\_sisters\\_brothers](https://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/the_sisters_brothers)

Film

## Recommendations from Margaret Cain, Books for Book-lovers group convenor

### What to read when you're feeling distracted

Even the most avid reader may be finding it difficult to concentrate on reading a whole novel at present. These are disturbing times! Why not forget ticking those weighty tomes off your lockdown bucket list and try a 'slice of life' short story instead?

I've chosen here three stories that you can download to your computer or e-reader.

Warning: common themes in short stories are loss, regret, unfulfilled lives and missed opportunities, all of which feature here:

- **'The Dead' by James Joyce**, from his 1914 'Dubliners' collection. I'm not alone in thinking this is one of the finest – and certainly the saddest – short stories ever written.

In a nutshell: Pompous Gabriel Conroy begins a Christmastime evening by attending his aunts' musical party and ends it with an understanding of his wife's true feelings about their marriage.

Find it (free of charge) at: <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/2814>

- **'The Lady's Maid' by Katherine Mansfield** appeared in her 1922 collection 'The Garden Party & Other Stories', which earned her a reputation as one of the most talented writers of her time.

In a nutshell: In a one-sided conversation, Ellen, a maid serving the same family for many years, explains the sacrifice which her 'lady' has quietly, but manipulatively, demanded of her.

Find it (free of charge) at: <https://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/1429>

- **'Roman Fever' by Edith Wharton**, first published in 1934. A friend of Henry James, Edith Wharton is infinitely more readable, possibly explaining why she enjoyed less critical acclaim.

In a nutshell: Two wealthy American widows visiting Rome reminisce about a long-ago visit when they were rivals for the love of the husband of one. The story ends with a delicious twist!

Find it (for a small charge) at: <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Roman-Fever-Short-Edith-Wharton-ebook/dp/B00JJVPRE0>

*Next time I'm going to give you a break from my recommendations and ask members of our U3A Woodley Book Lovers Book Group to contribute a line or two on their favourite reads.*

Literature

For queries regarding anything in this newsletter please contact **Paula Dove** [groupsco@woodleyu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupsco@woodleyu3a.org.uk)

If you would like to contribute to the next newsletter then please contact Paula. Contributions on Classical music and Dance would be particular welcome.

**For General Enquiries** - Telephone the duty officer on **07565 585545**.

Contact